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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

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JUN 09 2003
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Please replace the second full paragraph on page 6, beginning at line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Σ¹ --Thus, the cosmetic ~~compositions~~ composition of the present invention has an excellent whitening effect and has excellent storage stability.--

Please replace the second paragraph on page 11, beginning at line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Σ² --More specifically, isolation and purification of polymethoxyflavone from Citrus tachibana will be described. The dried peel of Citrus tachibana (herbal name: "kippi") is pulverized with a blender and dipper in a suitable solvent (e.g., 95% ethanol in an amount of five times the weight) for an appropriate period of time (e.g., five days) for extraction. The extract liquid is filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure so that a kippi extract (corresponding to S1 described above) can be obtained. A suitable amount of ethyl acetate is added to the obtained kippi extract to dissolve the kippi extract, followed by the addition of water in an amount equal to that of the ethyl acetate and stirring, and the mixture ~~was~~ is left undisturbed. After separating the mixture into layers, a water layer ~~was~~ is removed. This operation (washing with water) ~~was~~ is repeated ~~plural~~ multiple times, preferably three times or more, and then ethyl acetate ~~was~~ is distilled off to obtain a dry solid (corresponding to S2 described above). Alternatively, a suitable amount of mixed solvent of hexane/chloroform (in a volume proportion of 1/1) is added to the obtained kippi extract and is stored undisturbed ~~over-night~~ overnight at an appropriate temperature (e.g., 4°C). A precipitate is removed by separating means (e.g., centrifugation) and the supernatant is concentrated to obtain a dry solid (corresponding to S3 described above). This dry solid product (corresponding to S2 or S3 described above) is dissolved in an appropriate amount of a suitable solvent (e.g., hexane/ethanol (in a volume proportion of 85/15)), and subjected to fractional liquid chromatography using a silica gel column or an alumina column with a mixed solvent of hexane/ethanol as the eluent for fractionation. Thus, polymethoxyflavone can be isolated and purified.--

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Please replace the first paragraph on page 18 after Table 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Σ^3 --The results of Table 1 indicate that all of the polymethoxyflavones of formulae (II) to (V) significantly suppressed melanization of HM3KO. ~~This~~ These effects are far beyond those of kojic acid and arbutin.--

Please replace the second paragraph on page 19 after Table 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Σ^4 --Table 2 indicates that the polymethoxyflavone used in the present invention significantly ~~suppress~~ suppresses the induction of pigmentation of brown guinea pigs.--